



# PRAIRIE FIRE

"As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world and with one another." (from Bond of Union)

**September 10, 2004**

*Prairie Fire is the semi-monthly newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society. The two most recent issues may be seen at [www.prairie.madison.uua.org](http://www.prairie.madison.uua.org)*

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## PRAIRIE CALENDAR

### Sunday, September 12

10:00 a.m. R.E. classes begin

☞ 10:00 a.m. Ingathering and Sharing the Waters,  
led by Robin Proud and Barbara Chatterton

### September 17-19 Annual Retreat, Bethel Horizons

#### Friday, September 17

7:00 p.m. Prairie Board Meeting at Bethel

#### Saturday, September 18

☞ 9:00 a.m. Prairie Book Club discussion of  
*Nobody's Fool* by Richard Russo

#### Sunday, September 19

10:00 a.m. Key Log Ceremony

#### Saturday, September 25

☞ 7:00 p.m. Playreaders at the home of Paula  
Pachciarz and Carl Wacker

#### Sunday, September 26

☞ 10:00 a.m. "Coming Together," presented by  
Reverend Sarah Oelberg.

#### Tuesday, September 28

5:00 a.m. Prairie cooks breakfast at the Grace  
Episcopal Church men's drop-in shelter

☞ 1:30 p.m. Prairie Elders meet in the Great Room,  
first floor, Tabor Oaks building, Oakwood Village.

7:00 p.m. Prairie Program Committee meets at 916  
Shorewood Blvd.

☞ = Details follow in this issue.

## **NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 19**

### Saturday, October 16

☞ CMWD Leadership Days – North, Rockford, IL

### Saturday-Sunday, November 6-7

Fall Frolic Religious Education event at Prairie

## DETAILS OF COMING EVENTS

### Sunday, September 12

Ingathering and Sharing the Waters is a traditional sharing of water from summer travels, and a time of welcoming and reconnecting within the Prairie community. This program will be led by Robin Proud and Barb Chatterton. This is also the first week of Religious Education classes in the downstairs rooms.

### Sunday, September 19

There will be no service at Prairie because of the Annual Retreat at Bethel Horizons. The Sunday program is the Key Log Ceremony, held in the Prairie Center at 10:00 a.m.

### Sunday, September 26

As we gather for the beginning of a new church year, we might take a page from the Jewish celebration of Yom Kippur, which ends today, and communally forgive one another and begin again, in love.

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Saturday, September 11, is Paryushana-parva, the holiest period of the year for the ascetic Jainist sect Shvetambara. This 8-day celebration is a time of fasting, worship of the Jina, and reading of the life story of Lord Mahavira from the Kalpasutra.  
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## OUR SOCIETY

### PRAIRIE PLAYREADERS: BLACK COMEDY

"Black Comedy" was written by Peter Shaffer (who also authored "Equus" and "Amadeus") and has been chosen to kick off the Prairie Playreaders season on Saturday, September 25, at 7:00 p.m. This funny, fast-moving play is an ensemble piece and offers engaging roles for all readers.

Newcomers are especially welcome to join us at the home of Carl Wacker and Paula Pachciarz, 4709 Sherwood Rd. in Madison. You may come to read or to listen, but all who wish to read will get the opportunity. Beverages and snacks are provided by the hosts so you need bring only yourselves and your reading glasses.

Please call or email Paula (273-4806, [pachwack@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pachwack@sbcglobal.net)) if you plan to attend or if you need directions.

### PRAIRIE ELDERS MEET SEPTEMBER 28

Prairie Elders meets Tuesday, September 28, 1:30 p.m., in the Great Room, on the first floor of the Tabor Oaks building at Oakwood Village.

Twenty-one people attended the new group's August meeting. Organized by and for Prairie members and friends over sixty-five, Prairie Elders' purpose is to offer good times and mutual support. Contact Donna Murdoch or Doleta Chapru for further information.

Directions to Tabor Oaks: Enter Oakwood from Mineral Point Road, curve left up the hill, go to the right at the parking lot and drive toward the Covenant Oaks building. Look for Tabor Oaks on the right. Go in the main entrance and turn right. The meeting area is just before you reach a wall and another right turn.

### MINISTER SEARCH PROCESS EXPLAINED

The Minister Search Committee (Ken Skog, Doleta Chapru, Patty Stockdale, Barbara Chatterton, and Aileen Nettleton) has developed the following guidelines and process for the selection of a ¼ time "Consulting Minister."

**Confidentiality:** The Minister Search Committee will maintain absolute confidentiality about all applicants, their qualifications, and other information

pertaining to them. The committee requests that Prairie members and friends *refrain from having any discussion with potential candidates about the position.* Only the Minister Search Committee and the Central Midwest District administrator should discuss the position with potential candidates. Confidentiality is essential to respect potential candidates' privacy.

**Process:** The process will involve the Parish in selecting the minister. The steps in the process are:

- **August:** The Board approved the process for selection and the proposed duties for a ¼ time "consulting minister."
- **September 19-30:** Members will respond to a Parish Survey to provide information about Prairie to prospective candidates. (You will receive this at the fall retreat or by mail.)
- **October:** Fundraising for the minister position will take place as part of the Pledge Drive.
- **November 14:** Parish will vote on the Annual Budget. This will determine if Prairie will have the funds to pay a minister. **If funds are raised, the process will continue. If not, the process will be tabled.**
- **November 15-December/January:** Minister Search Committee gets information on candidates, conducts interviews, and selects one candidate to present to the congregation.
- **January/February:** "Candidating Weekend" for all members to meet the candidate. Parish Meeting to vote on accepting the candidate.
  - If Yes vote, proceed to negotiate an agreement with the candidate.
  - If No vote, the Minister Search Committee interviews and selects a different candidate to present to the congregation.

The Minister Search Committee is excited about this opportunity. The committee members have carefully reviewed and discussed UUA guidelines and documents in establishing this process and met with the CMD administrator to review procedures. The Board has been actively involved in discussions, as well. We hope Prairie is able to reach its goal of hiring a part-time consulting minister during the year!

See the July 23 issue of the *Prairie Fire* for the Proposed Minister Activities chart.

Please contact a committee member if you have any questions. Thank you.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### A TRANSFORMATION FOR R.E.

The RE area has undergone a transformation! If you haven't been down to check out the basement, or to daringly peer inside the supply closet, please try it. I think you will be pleasantly surprised by the new and ever increasing level of organization. Of course, this was no small task. The following volunteers deserve lots of thanks and praise!

The super pre-Bat Mitzvah clean up crew: Paula Pachciarz, Judy and Toby Wacker, Judy Skog, and Robin Carre!

For Nifty Gifty supply sorting: Kathy Converse

All of the amazing folks who came for our big cleanup Sunday: Jean Matos, Rachel Long, Martin Arnold, Reuben and Madeline Arnold, Paula Pachciarz, Carl Wacker, Judy and Toby Wacker, Susan and Dirk Herr-Hoyman and Randy Converse!

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The RE year will get off to a much better start having everything so fabulously cleaned and organized.

Speaking of which, our Religious Education year starts off this Sunday, September 12, with an Ingathering and Water Communion just for kids and youth. We will meet downstairs to explore the significance of water and the ways that our mingling waters of the world symbolize all of the gifts each of us brings to the community. Afterwards, students will meet their teachers and be introduced to the curricula for the year.

Grades K-2 will be taught the *Special Times* curriculum by Jeanie Trigg, Marcia Johnson, and Robin Carre. The students will learn about our Judeo-Christian heritage by enacting the activities of the major Jewish and Christian holidays. Randy Converse and Linda Sheehy will lead grades 3-5 using the text *Timeless Themes*. This text introduces the Biblical literature that is a part of our UU heritage using games, songs, and stories. The middle school and high school youth will explore the *Neighboring Faiths* curriculum with Carl Wacker

and Rachel Long as facilitators of their classes. They will learn about some of the religions of the world by visiting local congregations and/or inviting members of local churches to come to Prairie to talk about the activities of their congregations. After each visit they will reflect on what they learned and liked or disliked about each religion. In the spring, the high school group will separate from the middle school group, who will continue with the *Neighboring Faiths* curriculum. The high school youth will then be led by Larry Nahlik and Rick Ruecking using the *Sacred Threads* curriculum, which covers the intricacies of the major Eastern religions. We will also continue holding YoUUth Circles on the first Sunday of every month!

I have always been fascinated with the myriad ways that various religions answer the big questions in life: why was I born, what should I do while I am here, why will I die and what happens then? Within these questions are layers of other questions: is there a God, why do bad things happen, how should I treat other people? It is wonderful to be starting as the Director of Religious Education at Prairie this year when we will be exploring World Religions. I know that these eternal questions come to us as children, and I hope to be able to help the children and youth at Prairie along the paths they will walk in search of their own answers. During YoUUth circles, intergenerational events, and our seasonal overnights, we will find fun and meaningful ways to talk about these questions and also explore major emotions such as anger, joy and fear. There will be crafts, movement experiences, community building, yummy food, music, and other wonderful people to search with!

We are compiling a list of members and friends who are CPR- and First Aid-trained and/or certified. If you have been trained in CPR and/or First Aid, please send me an email at [m\\_a\\_gl@att.net](mailto:m_a_gl@att.net), or sign the sheet that will be posted on the RE bulletin board near the top of the stairs. Thanks so much!

In Peace,  
*Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky, DRE*

### PRAIRIE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS

*Tuesdays 7-9 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-12 noon*

### SHAAREI SHAMAYIM CALENDAR

*Saturdays 8:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.*

*Prairie Liaison: Celeste Robins 249-5933*

## PRAIRIE WEB SITES

*Prairie UU Society:*

<http://prairie.madison.uua.org/~prairie/>

*Prairie News Group:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairienews/>

*Prairie Views Group:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairieviews/>

*Social Action:*

<http://socialaction.homestead.htm>

## LETTERS

### HUMAN FILM SERIES AT FUS

Hello to All!



You are invited to attend the Human Film Series of First Unitarian Society of Madison. It is our 4th year for the series, which will have some emphasis on global issues.

The first film is a documentary called *The Human Cost of Americas Arms Sales* that shows the impact on the human rights of citizens whose governments rely on U.S. weapons. The film will be shown at FUS, 900 University Bay Drive in the Auditorium at 7:00 pm on Friday, September 17. Refreshments will be served and a discussion will follow the film. This is a free event.

For additional information, call Suzie deBeers at 833-0506.

*Susie deBeers*

### PALESTINIAN OLIVE OIL FOR SALE

Dear Members and Friends of MRSCP (Madison-Rafah Sister-City Project),

We have been asked to let you know about the "Holy Land Olive Oil" project which imports organic, extra virgin Olive Oil directly from Palestine to help Palestinian farmers and raise funds for charity and the work for peace.

Madison resident, Martha Boyd, is planning to order from the January shipment for this area.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ORDERING, PLEASE LET HER KNOW BY **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**. Her e-mail is [boyd@wisc.edu](mailto:boyd@wisc.edu) and her phone number is 608-250-4791.

Also, if anyone is interested in working on this project with Martha, please let her know. She's looking for volunteers to help expand this project.

Thanks,

*Barb Olson, MRSCP*

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

### FALL LEADERSHIP DAYS TRAINING PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 16

This message is a reminder to sign up for one of the Fall Leadership Days being sponsored by the Central Midwest District.

- Leadership Days - North - October 16 - Rockford, IL
- Leadership Days - South - October 30 - Bloomington, IL

**Goals:** To equip congregational leaders with knowledge and skills that will further your work for vital, growing congregations. To further a vision of robust, transformational congregations addressing the needs of both church and currently unchurched in the 21st century. To decrease the isolation and increase the connection of UU congregational leaders. ( We have congregational polity, treasure our individuality, and are part of a larger movement! Let's engage those energies!!).

**Schedule:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Gather for coffee and registration at 8:30 a.m. with worship at 9:00. Morning session with Angela Merkert and Dori Davenport on Leadership and Vision for our UU Congregations. How will you lead into this new church year? what's important in your congregation now? Tools to assess your congregational system. Four afternoon sessions will offer 2 1/2 hour workshops on (1) Practicing Pluralism-Engaging Conflict during Change; (2) Growing our Congregations - Practicing Radical Hospitality, PR Strategies and More; (3) Volunteer Management: and a fourth workshop expressly for Congregational Presidents. There is also congregational team time scheduled during the day.

**Cost:** \$35 per person or \$90 for each congregational team of 3 persons

**How to register:** Register online

- Leadership Days - North - Rockford - go to [www.regonline.com/15799](http://www.regonline.com/15799)

- Leadership Days - South - Bloomington - go to [www.regonline.com/15800](http://www.regonline.com/15800)

or request a registration form from the District Office by sending an e-mail to [chosmer@cmwd-uua.org](mailto:chosmer@cmwd-uua.org).

*Angela Merkert  
Dori Davenport*

## **YOU ARE INVITED!!**

James Garrison PhD, President and Chair of State of the World Forum and author of six books on visionary leadership and creating a sustainable, compassionate future for our planet, will be in Madison on Monday, September 13, at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church, 2146 E. Johnson. The focus of the evening's talk will be the importance of this year's election, based on the insights in Jim's most recent book: *America as Empire; Global Leader or Rogue Power*. Jim will be speaking at 7:00 p.m. with Question and Answers, a wine and cheese reception, and a book signing. It promises to be a powerful and wonderful event for all. Please don't miss it!

## **SOCIAL ACTION**

### **MUUYACM TO HOST PRISON REFORM CONFERENCE**

On the weekend of October 22-24, MUUYACM (Madison UU Young Adult Campus Ministry) will be hosting a major event for the year, a national young adult conference on prison reform and prisoners' rights. Following through on the overwhelming enthusiasm of youth and young adults at last year's General Assembly for this issue, they will be leading the denomination in addressing this pressing human rights issue. Their special guest will be the Rev. Dr. William Schulz, Executive Director for Amnesty USA and the former President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This is going to be a really big production, so block this weekend off in your calendar (it's also UW Homecoming weekend, ugh) and think about how you can participate in what looks to be a really transformative experience.

## **ANNUAL SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS TRIP PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER**

The MUUYACM annual trip to protest at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia will be the weekend of November 19. This is an opportunity to join thousands of others, including many religious and spiritual groups, in non-violent demonstrations against the US funding and torture training of many military groups that have gone on to commit horrific human rights abuses, especially in Central and South America. It's a long road trip, but a really powerful and inspiring weekend with justice-seekers from around the world. You can find out more about the SOA protest at <http://www.soaw.org>.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

**Tuesday, September 14, 7-9 p.m.**, Pres House, 731 State. Latin America Roundtable. The new format for CALA meetings is a more open discussion. News and current events regarding social change in Latin America, travel opportunities, action items, and legislative advocacy. A place for locals interested in Latin America to network and share ideas and activities. Find more info at [www.calamadison.org](http://www.calamadison.org) or [info@calamadison.org](mailto:info@calamadison.org). 251-3241. Carol Bracewell, Community Action on Latin America.

**Tuesday, September 14, 7:30 p.m.**, Sauk Prairie High School Library, 105 9th Street, Prairie du Sac. Rights and Risks: Life Under John Ashcroft. Ed Garvey will speak on a citizen's right to dissent, the threat to the citizens of a democratic society if this right is curtailed, and the impact of the treatment of the detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on the health of our democracy. Sponsored by the Sauk Prairie Area Peace Council and is free and open to the public.

**Thursday, September 16, to Saturday, September 18.** The first annual Madison World Music Festival, featuring prominent artists and bands from around the world, and student groups and local bands representing different cultures. All performances are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



Most shows are all at the Union Terrace. A preliminary lineup:

- Thursday, September 16: Kepa Junkera, a Basque accordionist; Boban Markovic and the Serbian Orkestra, a 12-member Gypsy brass band playing Balkan funk dance music.
- Friday, September 17: Choro Sax Brasil (Mario Seve, an acclaimed Brazilian saxophonist, backed by an all-star ensemble; Llan de Cubel, hailing from Spain's Asturias region and mixing Asturian and Celtic traditions; The Whirling Dervishes of Rumi; Eva Ayllon, one of the leading exponents of Peruvian "musica criolla" (Creole music).
- Saturday, September 18: Karsh Kale and band, who blend Indian classical music, dub, drum and bass, jungle, reggae, and ambient to create "Urban Rag"; The African Show Boyz, five brothers from Ghana, in a performance rooted in the ancient rhythms and magic of the African culture.

**Friday, September 17, 6:30 p.m.**, Orpheum Theater. Screening of award-winning film-maker Robert Greenwald's hotly-anticipated new documentary **OUTFOXED: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism**. Followed by a discussion with John Nichols (The Nation), Matthew Rothschild (The Progressive), and Jeff Blodgett (Wellstone Action). Visit: <http://outfoxedwi.mollyguard.com>

**Monday, September 20, 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.** Wisconsin Studio Theater, 3rd floor, Overture Center. 50-minute concert of songs about workers and unions from the rich literature of opera and musical theater. Free admission. (9:30 p.m. performance recommended; no reserved seating.) For music, see: [www.esperanzaopera.org](http://www.esperanzaopera.org)

## **FLORIDA VOTER VOLUNTEERS WORK PRIMARIES**

In Florida this past Tuesday, more than 300 Election Protection volunteer poll monitors and legal advocates assisted voters as they went to cast their ballots in a statewide primary election. Because of their hard work, more voters were able to cast ballots that counted and, as a bonus, the Election Protection program picked up valuable experience and press coverage, both of which will aid our efforts in November.

You can read some of the news clips and a few volunteers' stories from Tuesday at:

<http://www.electionprotection2004.org>

We encourage you to use this moment to recruit friends and family to join you as Election Protection volunteers. Success breeds success, as they say, and Florida's primary again illustrates why we're needed and what a difference we can make at the polls on November 2.

Spread the word about Election Protection to friends by forwarding this link:

<http://www.electionprotectionvolunteer.org/friend>

All in all, Tuesday's election ran smoothly, though it was not without incident. Volunteers documented and helped resolve a number of voting problems, including:

- Potentially intimidating police presence near polling places in heavily African American precincts;
- Poll workers demanding identification from voters in an overly aggressive manner, and not informing voters without ID of their right to sign an affidavit and cast a vote;
- Polling places not opening on time. On election day and over the prior weekend, volunteers distributed thousands of copies of the Florida Voters' Bill of Rights. Voters responded positively to the information and made good use of the immediate assistance available through the toll-free Voters' Hotline, which fielded close to 1,000 calls on Monday and Tuesday.

*Matt Mulkey*

People For the American Way Foundation

## **VOTE IN SEPTEMBER 14 PRIMARY!**

September 14 is the primary in Wisconsin. Do you know who's running to represent you in the Wisconsin Legislature? Visit Action Wisconsin's Fall 2004 State Legislative Elections Web resource with a new easy-to-read format and the latest information on which candidates are running for office:

[www.actionwisconsin.org/fall04/whosrunning.html](http://www.actionwisconsin.org/fall04/whosrunning.html)

On the site, you can also find out where you go to vote and how to register:

[www.actionwisconsin.org/fall04/whosrunning.html](http://www.actionwisconsin.org/fall04/whosrunning.html)

## UUSC E-MAIL BULLETIN

*The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: advancing human rights and social justice in the United States and throughout the world.*

### MUSEUM CANCELS PLANNED TOUR OF BURMA

Victory! Congratulations and thank you to everyone for taking the time to tell the American Museum of Natural History in New York City to cancel its planned travel to Burma. On August 30, the museum informed our colleague agency the U.S. Campaign for Burma (USCB) of its intent to cancel its "Expedition to Burma."

USCB was also in discussions with the Smithsonian Institution and Asia Society about their trips to Burma and they have both announced that they will cancel their scheduled tours.

UUSC's partners in Burma's democracy movement have reported to us that tourism is linked to human rights abuses and benefits the military government in many ways. To develop its tourist infrastructure, the regime uses civilians as an unlimited pool of unpaid labor and servants at their disposal—a modern form of slavery. Based on documented reports from our partners such as the Karen Human Rights Group, the International Labor Organization (ILO) has called for international sanctions on Burma, the first time they have done so in their 80-year history.

Thousands of Burmese have been forced from their homes to make way for tourism developments or as part of so-called beautification projects. These people are usually left without homes or shelter so that the tourists can "enjoy" the area.

According to the country's minister of hotels and tourism, Major General Saw Lwin, the government receives about 12 per cent of the income of even private tourism services and much larger sums from visa fees and government-controlled entities.

While the military regime remains in power and Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of National League for Democracy requests that tourists not visit Burma.

### CAST YOUR VOTE ONLINE FOR BURMA FREEDOM

Use your vote to help raise awareness about the world's ONLY incarcerated Nobel Peace Prize recipient! In conjunction with our colleague organization U.S. Campaign for Burma, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee urges you to use your online voice in Time magazine's "living Asian hero" awards for 2004 by casting your vote for Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma. Time

magazine will select a group of finalists on September 20, and the winner will be announced October 4.

To learn more, go to the U.S. Campaign for Burma Web site at: <http://www.uscampaignforburma.org/> and to UUSC's Web site at: <http://www.uusc.org/news/alert093003.html>

Then cast your vote with Time magazine: <https://www.timeinc.net/time/secure/asia/heroes/2004/>

### Why Aung San Suu Kyi Is a True Hero

Aung San Suu Kyi leads a popular struggle for freedom and democracy in the Southeast Asian country of Burma. The country is ruled by one of the world's most brutal military regimes, which uses rape, torture, and killing to maintain its grip on power. Thousands of Burmese people have perished in the struggle for human rights and democracy, while journalists, writers, students, and others remain locked behind bars as political prisoners.

For her nonviolent resistance to Burma's military regime, Aung San Suu Kyi has spent the majority of the past 15 years under house arrest. However, like Nelson Mandela when he was imprisoned, Aung San Suu Kyi serves as a beacon of hope to the Burmese freedom struggle. Surviving physical abuse, deprivation of food, and two assassination attempts, she is a shining light of freedom in a land of darkness. For her efforts, she has won the Nobel Peace Prize, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought from the European Parliament, India's Jawaharlal Nehru Prize for International Understanding, and the US Presidential Medal of Freedom.

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### Action alert: Urge Congress to support human right of access to water

As the world's water resources are becoming more scarce, greedy corporations seek to exploit this precious resource for profit. You can help protect this vital resource by urging your members of Congress to support the Water for the World resolution. This resolution calls upon the U.S. government to recognize water as a global public good and fundamental human right in its trade, development and international financial policies. For an action alert, visit

<http://www.uusc.org/news/alert082604.html>.

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### Action alert: Recent clashes threaten peace in Democratic Republic of Congo

Recent violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo threatens to derail the fragile peace process just as the country is undergoing a difficult transition after six years of civil war that has claimed the lives of more than 3

million people. Furthermore, as tensions between Rwanda and the Congo continue to mount, analysts fear that a full-scale regional war could erupt between the two nations.

Contact U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to express your concern and urge that the U.S. government provide critical support to the newly established National Unity and Transition Government in the Democratic Republic of Congo. For an action alert, visit:  
<http://www.uusc.org/news/alert081804.html>.

In related news, ethnic Congolese Tutsis were murdered at a U.N. refugee camp in Burundi, where they had fled to escape the violence in their native land. For more about this latest tragedy, visit:  
<http://www.uusc.org/info/article081804.html>.

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**Action alert: Family member of key witness in Guatemala human rights legal case is murdered**

UUSC is concerned that the wave of attacks on human rights defenders and others involved in key human rights cases in Guatemala may be part of a systematic campaign to silence those who have spoken out against impunity for human rights abuses, present and past. Most recently, a key witness in a Guatemala murder case involving the husband of U.S. activist Jennifer Harbury, has been murdered. Ms. Harbury recently joined the staff of UUSC as director of its new STOP (Stop Torture Permanently) Campaign.

To take action against this outrageous attempt to intimidate human rights defenders in Guatemala, visit  
<http://www.uusc.org/news/alert080904.html>.

For more about the STOP Campaign, visit:  
<http://www.uusc.org/programs/STOP/index.html>

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**UUSC, colleague organizations form Save Darfur Coalition**

Public awareness is urgently needed to mobilize members of the international community to respond to and help end the atrocities that threaten the lives of 2 million people in Darfur, a western region of the Sudan. The Sudanese government backed by the Janjaweed Arab militia, has been accused of carrying out a systematic and deliberate campaign of terror in which thousands have been killed or displaced from their homes.

In response, UUSC joined forces with 80 organizations representing the Sudanese community, faith-based, humanitarian and human rights agencies in the newly established Save Darfur Coalition.

For more about the Save Darfur Coalition, visit:  
[http://www.uusc.org/info/article071604\\_5.html](http://www.uusc.org/info/article071604_5.html).

For updates on the crisis in the Sudan, visit:  
<http://www.uusc.org/info/article071604.html>.

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**UUSC responds to Florida hurricane relief effort**

Hurricane Charley is estimated to have caused more than 20 deaths and \$15 billion in property damage. In addition, thousands of workers lost their jobs because of destruction to buildings and farmlands. UUSC is especially concerned about the impact that the hurricane has had on the lives of low-income or marginalized families who may not have access to traditional disaster relief assistance.

To learn how you can contribute to the humanitarian relief effort to aid those most severely affected by the unusually strong storm, visit:  
<http://www.uusc.org/info/article082604.html>.

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**Fair trade chocolate bars available through UUSC Coffee Project**

UUSC is pleased to announce the addition of fairly traded chocolate bars to the coffee, tea and cocoa already available through our partnership with the Fair Trade company Equal Exchange. By buying fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa and now chocolate bars through the UUSC Coffee Project, our members and supporters can help make a crucial difference in the lives of small farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia. To learn more about the UUSC Coffee Project, visit:  
<http://www.uusc.org/info/article082504.html>.

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**More about UUSC**

Become a UUSC member today for only \$25. Especially in these critical times, the Service Committee depends on the support of individuals like you to continue to protect human rights here in the United States and around the world. Your unrestricted gift of \$60 or more will be matched dollar for dollar by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y. To learn more about UUSC membership or to make a donation today, visit:  
<http://www.uusc.org/info/support.html>.

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